

5. On the Birds collected in Socotra and Southern Arabia
by Dr. Emil Riebeck. By Dr. G. HARTLAUB, F.M.Z.S.

[Received November 4, 1881.]

(Plate LXXII.)

The birds to which I invite attention were collected during excursions to the island of Socotra and to Southern Arabia in April last. In the former place Dr. Riebeck was accompanied by the celebrated African traveller Dr. Schweinfurth.

The Socotran collection contains 42 specimens, referable to 20 species:—

Passeres	10 species.
Picariæ	1 „
Herodios	1 „
Anseres	1 „
Columbæ	3 „
Limicolæ	3 „
Gaviæ	1 „

In it there are 7 species not obtained by Prof. Balfour, including a fine novelty. These species are:—

1. *Rhynchostruthus riebecki*, n. sp.
2. *Ena capensis*.
3. *Ardea purpurea*.
4. *Totanus glareola*.
5. *Fuligula nyroca*.
6. *Phalacrocorax lucidus*.
7. *Gallinula chloropus*.

Dr. Schweinfurth writes me the following notes on the Socotran localities mentioned by Dr. Riebeck on his labels:—

“In Socotra we were only on the north coast; and besides the immediate environs of Golousir and a short excursion made by Dr. Riebeck to the west of Tamarida, we explored only the country about this latter place and the central granite mountains.

“Our longest stay we made in a mountain-valley ‘Wadi Dilal’ (or Digal), and at a place called ‘Keregnigi,’ which abounds with boulders of grey granite and caverns.

“Gebel Firi is the name of one of the numerous granitic peaks of the Haygier.

“The uppermost part of Wadi Dilal is named Rischen. The country to the south of this place (above 900 metres) is situated on the northern slope of the central granitic mountains to the S.E. of Tamarida.

“Dr. Riebeck collected many birds in the plains to the east and S.E. of Tamarida, upon the rivulet conducting to the Belled el Schech, and others on the rivulet which opens near Tamarida.”

Dr. Riebeck being still in India, the scientific compilation of the ornithological portion of his collection has been confided to me by Prof. H. Welcker, of the Anatomical Institution at Halle. It contains the following species:—

I. SOCOTRA.

a. PASSERES.

1. *CISTICOLA INCANA*, Sclat. & Hartl. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1881, p. 166, pl. xv. fig. 1.

One adult male, agreeing in every respect with the specimen collected by Prof. Balfour.

“Iris black.” Gebel Firi.

2. *LANIUS UNCINATUS*, Scl. & Hartl. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1881, p. 168, c. fig. cap.

One adult specimen.

“Iris dark brown.” Karegnigi.

3. *ZOSTEROPS HABESSINICA*, Guér.

Zosterops habessinica, Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. i. p. 413; Hartl. Monogr. in Cab. J. f. O. 1865, p. 9; Scl. et Hartl. P. Z. S. 1881, p. 168.

One adult specimen.

“Iris greyish brown.” Tamarida.

4. *NECTARINIA BALFOURI*, Scl. & Hartl. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1881, p. 169, pl. xv. fig. 2.

Two adult males and one female are in the collection.

“Iris brownish red.” Karegnigi and Wadi Sjahi.

5. *RHYNCHOSTRUTHUS RIEBECKI*, n. sp. (Plate LXXII.)

Supra fusco-cinereascens, pileo fuscescenti-nigro, frontem versus nigriore, gula fusco-nigricante; macula majoris regionem paroticam occupante circumscripte sericeo-alba, nonnihil fulvescenti adumbrata; remigibus primariis fuscis; tectricibus majoribus remigumque tert. marginibus externis laete et dilute flavis, vittam longitudinalem valde conspicuam formantibus; scapularibus et tectricibus alarum minoribus dorso concoloribus; subalaribus albido flavidoque variis; rectrice extima tota obsolete fusca, duabus intermediis fuscis, vix distincte flavido fimbriatis, reliquis fusco-nigricantibus, marginibus externis laete flavis; subcaudalibus albidis; pectore et abdomine griseo-fulvescentibus; rostro nigro. Long. tot. circa 152 millim., culm. 14, al. 85, caud. 27, tars. 19.

Fœm. *Non diversa, exceptis pectore et abdomine purius griseis.*

Of this second species of the Socotran genus *Rhynchostruthus* there is a fine adult pair in the collection. The species is quite typical in its structure, but very different in colour, and easily recognizable by the dark hue of the crown, the silky white spot on the



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RHYNCHOSTRUTHUS RIEBECKI.

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sides of the head, the uniform colour of the underparts, the distribution of the yellow on the wing, &c.

“ Iris brown, feet flesh-coloured.” Karegnigi, April 28.

6. *EMBERIZA SEPTEMSTRIATA*, Rüpp.

E. tahapisi, Heugl. (nec A. Smith) Orn. N.O.-Afr. p. 665.

One adult male.

“ Iris dark brown, feet flesh-coloured.” Wadi Dilal.

Compared with a pair of the same species from the Kir station, on the Bahr el Gebel, the only difference consists in the more rufous ground-colour of the Socotran bird, this colour being dark brown in the continental specimens.

7. *PYRRHULAUDA MELANAUCHEN*, Cab.

Coraphites melanauchen, Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. p. 672; Sclat. & Hartl. P. Z. S. 1881, p. 172.

A fine pair in the collection.

“ Iris dark brown, feet reddish white.” Tamarida.

8. *AMYDRUS BLYTHI*, Hartl.

Amydrus blythi, Hartl. Cab. Journ. 1859, p. 31.

A. rüppelli, Blyth, J. As. Soc. Beng. 1856, p. 301; Finsch & Hartl. Orn. Ostaf. p. 867; Sclat. & Hartl. P. Z. S. 1881, p. 171.

Specimens of both sexes from Gollonsir, Karegnigi, and Gebel Firi.

“ Iris dark brown.”

9. *AMYDRUS FRATER*, Scl. & Hartl. P. Z. S. 1881, p. 171.

There are two adult males in the series from Tamarida, and a third one from Gebel Firi.

“ Iris greyish brown, feet brown.”

It is much to be regretted that the female of this fine new species continues unknown to us. What may be the colour of its head? One of the three specimens obtained was kindly presented to me, and now enriches the complete collection of Lamprotornithidæ in the Bremen Museum.

10. *CORVUS UMBRINUS*, Hedenb.

Corvus umbrinus, Sundev. Act. Stockh. 1838, p. 199; Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. p. 505.

C. infumatus, Wagn. Münchn. Gel. Anz. 1839.

Male and female from Tamarida.

“ Iris dark brown.”

b. *PICARIÆ*.

11. *CENTROPUS SUPERCILIOSUS*, Hempr. & Ehr.

Centropus superciliosus, Heugl. loc. cit. p. 791.

Male and female from “ Beled Shak.”

“ Iris blood-red and black.”

c. HERODIONES.

12. ARDEA PURPUREA, L.

Ardea purpurea, Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. p. 1051.

One specimen, a female.

Not obtained by Prof. Balfour.

d. ANSERES.

13. FULIGULA NYROCA (Güld.).

Aythia nyroca, Heugl. loc. cit. p. 1343.

A female from Gollonsir.

The occurrence of this Duck on the island of Socotra is rather curious, no specimen of it being known as yet from Eastern Africa or the shores of the Red Sea.

Not obtained by Prof. Balfour.

e. COLUMBÆ.

14. TRERON WAALIA (Gm.).

Treron waalia, Heugl. loc. cit. p. 117; Sclat. & Hartl. P. Z. S. 1881, p. 175.

Four examples from Gebel Firintz.

"Iris red and blue."

15. TURTUR SENEGALENSIS (L.).

Turtur senegalensis, Heugl. loc. cit. p. 817; Sclat. & Hartl. P. Z. S. 1881, p. 173.

Two males from Karegnigi.

"Iris dark brown, feet red."

16. ŒNA CAPENSIS (L.).

Œna capensis, Heugl. loc. cit. p. 848.

An adult male from Gollonsir.

"Iris black."

Not in the Balfour collection.

f. LIMICOLÆ.

17. TOTANUS GLAREOLA, L.

Totanus glareola, Heugl. loc. cit. p. 1163; Finsch & Hartl. Ostaf. p. 750.

An adult female from Gollonsir.

"Iris pale brown, feet yellowish green."

Not in the Balfour collection.

18. TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCUS (L.).

Tringoides hypoleucus, Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. p. 1172; Finsch & Hartl. Ostaf. p. 745.

A male from Gollonsir.

19. GALLINULA CHLOROPUS (L.).

Gallinula chloropus, Heugl. loc. cit. p. 1224; Finsch & Hartl. Ostaf. p. 787.

Five adult specimens.

Not obtained by Prof. Balfour.

g. STEGANOPODES.

20. PHALACROCORAX LUCIDUS, Licht.

Phalacrocorax lucidus, Heugl. loc. cit. p. 1490; Finsch & Hartl. Ostaf. p. 846.

Halieus lucidus, Licht. Doubl. p. 86; Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. p. 1490; Finsch & Hartl. Ostaf. p. 846.

An adult female from Tamarida.

“Iris yellowish white.”

Not in the Balfour collection.

II. SOUTHERN ARABIA.

1. DRYMÆCA TENELLA (?).

Drymæca tenella, Cab. in v. d. Deck. Reise in Ostaf. iii. p. 29, t. ii. fig. 1; Reich. Cab. Journ. 1877, p. 30.

One mile from Bolhaf. “Iris red, with a yellow ring.”

In colour very much like *C. tenella*, from Lado, but with the beak smaller and slenderer. Long. culm. 8 mm., al. 46, caud. 60, tars. 18.

2. NECTARINIA METALLICA, Licht.

Nectarinia metallica, Licht. Doubl. p. 15; Hempr. & Ehr. Symb. Physic. Av. t. 1; Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. p. 224.

Five adult specimens. Shagra and Bolhaf.

There are Arabian specimens of this bird in the Berlin Museum.

3. MEROPS CYANOPHRYS, Cab.

Merops cyanophrys, Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. p. 203, pl. vi.; Cab. Mus. Hein. iii. p. 137.

Male and female from Hami.

“Iris brick-red.” April.

This fine and little-known species was discovered by Hemprich and Ehrenberg near Qonfudah. It seems strictly confined to Arabia.

I add a short description of the birds before me, as that in Heuglin's work has evidently been taken from a much livelier-coloured specimen:—

Supra obsolete et pallide æruginoso-virens, subcærulescenti lavatus, subtus magis in cærulescentem vergens; gula, fronte et superciliis late cyaneis; torque latiusculo gutturali striolaque per oculos ducta nigris; remigibus prim. in pogonio externo obsolete virentibus, in pogonio interno pallide fulvescentibus; tertiariis